Dam Removal (2016 Planned)

There is one dam to be removed during this project. This dam is located just upstream of Porter Fork. Built in the early 1900s it was once used for hydroelectric generation. Over the years the dam has been used as a fishing pond. Currently the dam has filled in and is not useable. There are no power generation works associated with the structure. During the 1983 floods, water moved out of the stream channel at this site onto the adjacent road.

The dam will be used during the fish removal project as the treatment stop and start point.

It is anticipated that the dam will be removed in 2016 or later. Once the dam is removed, fish populations will be able to move from about the fee collection booth up to elbow fork and into porter fork. This will improve their changes for long-term persistence of these populations.

In 2015, an internal request from Washington Office was received for National Demolition and Disposal Projects. Mill Creek dam removal was identified and selected as one of three projects to be put in the President's budget as a national priority for 2016.

Dam Removal Project Steps

In general the dam removal would follow the following steps (again the reach in question is from the pool below the dam to the outhouse):

1. Removal and stockpile all plants that we hope to save within the project reach.
2. Dam Mill Creek above the project reach and pipe the water on the south side of the stream around the construction area and back into the stream.
3. Dredge Mill Creek Dam pool stockpiling the material so it can be used in rehabilitation efforts later.
4. Remove the dam and haul out the material.
5. Rebuild the stream channel putting small drop structure in the channel to restore the natural stream gradient and sinuosity. This work will include installing fish habitat features in the channel like large wood anchored into the bank along with rootwads.
6. Reestablish access sites along the stream.
7. Replant the vegetation.
8. Turn the water back into the channel
9. Monitoring the channel

Note that this may change as we get into removal of the dam and reworking of the channel.